

Tuesdays with Tammy Nevada Libraries Forum
from
Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records
10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
October 6, 2020

Notes

Attending: Tammy Westergard, Sulin Jones, Norma Fowler, Bruce Douglass, Betts Markle, NSLAPR; Guest speaker – Trevor Dean, Senior Policy Advisor for U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto; Kim Diehm, Boulder City; Diane Baker, Tod Colegrove, Carson City; Marcie Smedley, Henderson; Jessica Anderson, Humboldt County; Courtney Oberhansli, Mineral County; Forrest Lewis, North Las Vegas; Kathie Brinkerhoff, Pershing County; Joan Dalusung, Washoe County; Eric Walsh, Great Basin College; Lara Katrina Schott, Sierra Nevada College; Maggie Farrell, UNLV; Ron Belbin, WNC; Nancy Schmidt, SCLL.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW



Strengths:

- Libraries continue to be innovative and creative in finding ways to serve their communities in safe ways in providing services, programs, and use of space.
- Libraries are tackling tough topics and seeking partners outside the library realm.
- All levels of government (federal, state, and local) as well as libraries are working to solve the connectivity issues for students doing distance learning.



Struggles:

- Uncertainty in planning for the future with expectations of economic downturn and budget cuts
- Dealing with the realization that some of the most vulnerable students have fallen out of the educational system
- Figuring out effective ways to help with connectivity issues right now
- Dealing with pressure from local governing bodies with different viewpoints regarding library reopening



Opportunities

- Online learning gives opportunities to reach students all around the world
- Virtual programming allows libraries to reach people they wouldn't traditionally reach, both inside and outside their communities, and to offer innovative programs



Trends

- Libraries continue to provide digital services and devices to increase access for families and individuals in the community.
- Libraries are gradually increasing public access to their facilities

Announcements:

- Webinars involving customer service and Mental Wellness are posted on our site: <https://nsla.nv.gov/COVID19/10MinuteWellness> .
- Nevada Reads Event, noon (12:00pm) October 8th, 2020, Jessica Bruder, author of “Nomadland” will be in conversation with labor economist Todd Sorenson. Register on the Nevada Humanities website. <https://www.nevadahumanities.org/events/2020/9/17/nomadland-resiliency-on-the-road>
- READ Nevada Virtual Event Press Conference Governor Sisolak October 14th, 2020 @ 2:00 p.m. celebrates reading, summer reading trends, library online story times, and more.
- “Resilient Together: Building School and Public Library Partnerships, a 3-week course: October 14, 21, 29th, 2020. Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/resilient-together-building-school-and-public-library-partnerships-tickets-113371027796> LSTA CE Scholarships are available for this event.
- Las Vegas Book Festival will be held virtually October 19-24.

Guest Speaker: Trevor Dean, Senior Policy Advisor for Senator Catherine Cortez Masto.

- Expressed the Senator’s recognition of the contributions of libraries and the important roles they play in their communities
- Stated that early literacy is fundamental and that they are working on ways to get books into the hands of children while recognizing the effectiveness of existing library programming
- Recognized the role of libraries in providing internet access particularly for students doing distance learning
- Provided an update on the status of legislation for a recovery package and said they are trying to get more funding and flexibility for e-rate so that e-rate funding could be used to provide devices

Libraries in the News:

- Washoe County Library System:
 - *The Library as Ballot Box* <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/library-ballot-box/>
 - Washoe County Library System offering wi-fi and devices to access the internet <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=17750&DateTime=9%2F10%2F2020+8%3A32%3A58+AM&Term=Washoe+%2Blibrary&PlayClip=TRUE>
- UNLV University Libraries:
 - *We’re Talking about Racism* <https://www.unlv.edu/news/article/we-re-talking-about-racism>
 - *UNLV Athletics, Libraries Launch Book Club for Students* <https://www.unlv.edu/news/article/unlv-athletics-libraries-launch-book-club-students>
- Humboldt County Library:
 - Little Free Library at Denio Junction and Sheldon Refuge Campground <https://insidenorthernnevada.com/Content/NEWS-Homepage-Rotator-/NEWS-Homepage-Main/Article/Little-Free-Library-at-Denio-Junction-and-Sheldon-Refuge-Campground-/31/175/45690?s=1>
- Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records:

- Governor Sisolak announces \$13.8 Million in workforce development grant
https://gov.nv.gov/News/Press/2020/Governor_Sisolak_announces_13_8_million_workforce_development_grant/
- Carson City Library:
 - *Roving on Mars* program <https://carsonnow.org/reader-content/10/01/2020/roving-mars-virtual-program-nasa-scientist>

Check-In:

Joan Dalusung, Washoe County: We are doing [TeenTober](#); have added features to our website; and are doing a special weekly newsletter. Also, we are launching “100 Books Before Graduation” and will be using Beanstack to manage it. Beanstack was provided by the State Library using LSTA funds.. We are also doing teen cooking online and focusing on teen programming.

Maggie Farrell, UNLV: We have two items that have been picked up by the national press. One is a series of discussions on racism called “We need to talk.” It involves faculty, students, and guests from the community. The second deals with police services and we are hoping to model open dialog without emotion that deals with community issues. We have about 5 or 6 more of these planned. Yesterday we announced a partnership between the library and athletic department for a book club. Our first book will be *A Most Beautiful Thing*, and the author, Arshay Cooper, will be joining us to discuss the book.

Jessica Anderson, Winnemucca: Things are going good here and we are working on our Teen Room. Denio has reopened their Little Free Library.

Diane Baker, Carson City: We’ve had some nice local press. We had a great virtual program yesterday with a NASA scientist talking about “Roving on Mars”. We also got a local donation to expand social justice and anti racism items in our collection.

Tammy Westergard, NSLA: I put up a link to a press release from Governor Sisolak about a workforce development grant from the US Department of Education. Karsten Heise and I have been working to make this happen. There was \$148 million up for grabs, and there were 800 people on the call when the winning proposals were announced. Nevada was one of eight states awarded this grant. Nevada State Library is a key partner among 25 state entities on this grant, and Nevada’s application was the only one that leveraged libraries in the solution for workforce development.

Eric Walsh, GBC: Things are going well. We are having a lot of reference questions coming in and are trying some different ways reaching out to students. Our enrollment is high and leading among community colleges. We have a lot of new students from out of state, with military, and outside of the country. We are making sure that databases are working.

Marcie Smedley, Henderson: We have moved from curbside service appointment-only to no-appointment curbside service, which has benefitted our community by being flexible. We reopened book drops and many items were returned which helped speed up holds lists. We are starting to look at next steps but not sure of the timing yet.

Kathy Brinkerhoff, Pershing: *Posted in chat:* Going good. We are still doing pick up at the door. We also allow people to come into the foyer to look at the new books we put on carts. They really appreciate that. We also allow computer use by reservation. Anyone who comes into the library has to wear a mask and wash or sanitize their hands.

Kim Diehm, Boulder City: Things are going well. Our atrium is open and we have some computers and printers available to the public to use. We have moved our main service desk and rearranged things in

the library to make it more user friendly. We are planning to open to the public in mid-October depending on how things go. There will be no meeting room use as it is being used to store seating removed from the library. The schools are still online for now.

In response to a comment from Kim Diehm and follow-up question from Tammy Westergard about the low numbers of children in the library -

Tod Colegrove, Carson City: We are not seeing a lot of unattended kids. They aren't hanging around much.

Diane Baker, Carson City: Kids who are coming in are with their family. We have made available computers for homework and job searching, and they are getting use.

Marcie Smedley, Henderson: Libraries are only doing curbside so no children in buildings, but the craft kits and mixed bundles of children's picture books and chapter books have been very popular for pickup.

Joan Dalusung, Washoe: The libraries are only open for "grab and go" so we aren't seeing many kids, but we are sending out children's books as part of grab and go. We are also doing surprise packs and blind date books for all age groups to replace browsing.